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especially to the carelessness of the foreign-born miners. Chapters IX and X deal with strikes and unionism. These are of a sketchy, historical character, the subjects being too extensive for adequate treatment within such narrow limits. The activities of the unions from 1868 to 1871, with the strikes of that period, the non-union interval, and the recent organization and successful strike are described. The description of the hold which unionism has upon the anthracite region at the present time is excellent. Chapter XI is entitled "Reclaiming the Waste." It describes the causes of waste and the methods adopted in recent years for marketing the smaller sizes of coal which were formerly wasted. Chapter XII is entitled "Reflections" and partakes strongly of the hortatory character. The volume is adequately illustrated by maps, diagrams and charts, and contains a large amount of statistical material, most of which will prove of value.

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*Studien zur Geschichte der Englischen Lohnarbeiter.* By GUSTAV F. STEFFEN. Vol. I, Parts 2 and 3. Pp. 335. Price, 7 m. Stuttgart: Hobbing & Büchle, 1901.

In the second and third installments of his careful investigation of the history of the English working people, Dr. Steffen has brought his inquiry down to about the middle of the eighteenth century. The first period, that before 1350, was covered in the first part of the volume and has been already reviewed.<sup>1</sup> The second period deals with the changes in the economic and legal status of the English working people during the breaking up of feudalism, from 1350 to 1540. During this time, the author finds that the purchasing power of the laborer increased steadily, but particularly during the years 1332-35 and 1376-78, and that his economic position was greatly improved. While not denying the effect of the black death in bringing about this result, by reducing the number of laborers, he considers that Rogers has greatly overestimated the importance of this event. Dr. Steffen does not accept Rogers' population statistics as conclusive, based as they are largely on the acreage in wheat, for he shows that rye and other grains formed an important part of the food supply of that period. The black death fell in the middle of a period of social change and only gave to the latter part of it a more radical character than it might otherwise have had. The change to money payments and a wage system had already begun in the first part of the fourteenth century, and was not the result of the black death, which at most but emphasized the change.

<sup>1</sup> See the ANNALS, May, 1901, p. 125.

Under the capitulation of the third period, Dr. Steffen describes the economic changes which occurred under the successful regulation of the labor contract during the years 1540 to 1660. This period witnessed a great advance in prices and a decline in the purchasing power of wages, a decline of perhaps a third in the first half of the seventeenth century, below the latter part of the fifteenth. This was partially compensated for, however, by the increase of opportunities for work.

The general rise in prices was caused, according to Dr. Steffen, by two sets of causes, one the general economic development of the country, and the other the legislative measures of the government. To the former category belong the technical improvements in industry and agriculture, the changing relations between employer and employee, the increased output of the precious metals and the increase of the population. To the latter group belong the monopolies, colonial expansion and the work of the merchant adventurers, enclosures, the tariff, taxation, the poor laws, the recoinage, and the confiscation of the church property. From the middle of the sixteenth century dates the decay of the English peasantry; the farm laborers sink to a position wholly dependent upon a sharply opposed wealthy, powerful and united class of employers, from which condition they do not rise for three hundred years.

The fourth period, beginning with 1660, brings us down to 1760. A time of preparation for the introduction of the factory system, it was marked by a great improvement in the economic condition of the laborer. The beginning of our modern system still found him, however, burdened with a mass of social and legal disadvantages, while the employing class, during the preparatory period, were arming themselves with all the advantages which a friendly legislation, a favorable social order and distribution of wealth could produce.

The history of the last phase of industrial development, the growth of the factory system, has been saved for a second volume.

Dr. Steffen has given us in this first volume a critical history of wages and the standard of living of the English working people down to 1760. It is a special study and takes for granted a knowledge not only of the political, but also of the economic history of England. Characterized by true German diligence and perhaps diffuseness, the book bears also a not less Teutonic polemical stamp. In dealing with complicated economic phenomena it is difficult to secure continuity of thought and narrative; and in endeavoring to meet this difficulty, the author has fallen into the error of being too schematic. But in spite of these defects, the work is undoubtedly a careful and valuable study of the history of the English laborer.

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